

# SCOTT COUNTY KICKER.

Vol. I.

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No. 17.

## A General Talk.

### The Sandywoods Man Comes in And Talks to the Editor About Printing, Lawyers and Taxation.

"Say!" said the Sandywoods man as he threw out his chew of long green and seated himself on a box in the KICKER office, "I want to know what you mean when you say these little cross-roads newspapers that 'stick to the party' have an eye on the printing of the constitutional amendment and the appropriation?"

The editor sized up his visitor and then answered: "I am not surprised at your asking such a question. No doubt you have wondered why a newspaper 'organ' could be furnished a majority of the people from year to year without any pay, but I will tell you—THE TAX-PAYERS FOOT THE BILL."

"What do you mean?" excitedly asked the man as he arose from his box. "I mean just what I say," retorted the editor as he asked his visitor to be seated. "The legislature of 1908 submitted a number of amendments to the constitution to be voted on in 1900. The 'law' requires these amendments to be published in some newspaper in every county in the State. And while these amendments are published in every newspaper in the State, yet the Secretary of State has the power, under the 'law', to designate the papers in which the publication shall be considered 'legal', and such papers as the Secretary of State sees fit to select will be remembered when the legislature makes the appropriation for the printing. The last appropriation was one hundred and fifty dollars for each paper favored by the Secretary of State."

"How does the Secretary of State decide where to place the appropriations?" asked the farmer. "That's dead easy," continued the editor. "Up in Jefferson City they have what is known as a 'press bureau'. They know just what each newspaper is doing and saying, and the paper that has an idea of its own, and does not 'stick to the party' through thick and thin, need have no hope of getting a finger in that appropriation."

"Will there be any amendments to print this fall?" "Oh, yes." "Do you expect to print them?" "Not at all." "Why?"

"Because I refuse to defend a set of self-confessed political fakirs and freebooters who have managed to get front seats in the Democratic organization in Missouri." "Is that so?" "Yes, sir."

"And you are to be punished because you defend the rights of the people?" "Yes, sir; that's it."

"And is it with our money that they pay the fellows who defend the farmers?" "Yes, sir."

"Well, by gum, I never looked at it that way. I knowed there was tricks in politics, but I never knowed they could twist it around so as to make a fellow kick himself."

"You didn't? Well, let me give you a tip. The great majority of country newspapers are nothing more than organs of aspiring politicians. These aspiring politicians are usually lawyers, and it is an established fact that where there is a political lawyer in it, it is someone else who foots the bill. For years we've been told by lawyer-politicians that we should send 'lawyers' to the legislature and 'farmers' to congress. We did so—and where the devil are we at today? Our so-called 'lawyers' are so worded that they can be made to mean anything or nothing, and our highest courts are usually divided about equally on any and every important point. We poor devils are told that 'ignorance of law is no defense,' and yet our highest courts refuse to agree on what is really the law."

"Don't you think the lawyer is better qualified to represent the people in a law-making body than a man of any other calling?"

"No, I do not. Perhaps he may be as well qualified. He is, perhaps, better posted on legal technicalities and may be able to dispel more wind than the ordinary citizen, but when you sound him down to 'brass tacks' he is just an ordinary man. One objection to him is that it is a part of his profession to accept a 'fee' and it is a sad truth that too many of our law-makers have accepted 'fees.'"

"Is the lawyer a necessity?" "He has as much right to follow his profession as has the doctor or

any other man. Many lawyers are good and valuable citizens, but they are not on the pay-roll of some citizen or corporation because of their political influence."

As the man from the Sand arose to go the editor shouted: "Hold on; you asked me about printing and I want to tell you. As I said before, the law is made by lawyers, and lawyers are often politicians. The State House Ring holds a club over the country newspapers with their constitutional amendments, and the attorneys hold a club over them with their legal printing. In order to catch it all a country editor has to be deucedly nice and must make no bad breaks about the 'party.'"

"How do lawyers hold a club over country papers with their legal printing?"

"Very easily. They are always connected with estates and land suits that require legal notice in some newspaper. The legal fee allowed the newspaper for printing it is very large. The parties interested are, perhaps, not aware that it is their privilege to go among the newspaper publishers and get the work done where it will cost the least, but leave the matter with the attorney, who puts it in the paper that enters to his political views."

"Are lawyers any more apt to be politicians than doctors, or any other class of professional men?"

Oh, yes. As a rule a lawyer never amounts to much until he has proved his ability as a politician. If he proves his ability to sway the people this way or that way—he gets business. Jurors and courts listen to him and seem to forget that he would work just as hard on the other side of the case if he were employed on that side. After a lawyer has been elected to congress or some other high office he is then eligible to a position as railroad "attorney" or lobbyist because of his knowledge of political affairs and the influence he has over the people. The people work and whoop and vote to elevate him, and if he proves to be a man of ability and cunning, the corporations often employ him at a higher salary than the people pay, and he becomes a most dangerous enemy to the very people to whom he owes all. A striking illustration is Martin L. Clardy, chief attorney for the Missouri Pacific, whom the people of the Thirteenth congressional district honored so long. After the people had worked and fought and elevated him to power and influence, which they had good reason to believe he would exert in their interest, he hired himself to a railroad corporation and is now hammering the people with the very club that they gave him."

"That's ungrateful, sure."

"Yes, but Mr. Clardy thinks it's 'business'—and I presume it is. Another thing is that we have so many unjust laws. In all law-making bodies the special interests have their representatives to defend their interests, but when a matter comes up concerning the producer—and he, above all is interested in quite all legislation—there is no one there to speak for him. Occasionally some fellow gets up to say a word in his behalf, but he is howled down as a 'disturber' and the daily papers only ridicule him. In the better days in Missouri you could not sell a man's home under trust deed, sheriff's sale or mortgage sale without giving him a chance to redeem it within a given time, but the land-grabbers were not satisfied with this, and today they can catch a man in a 'pinch,' close out his home, and he is done for. I could mention some mighty ugly cases of this kind that have occurred right here in Scott county."

"Well, we've got a low tax rate, haven't we?"

"The authorities are charging all that the constitution of the state permits, and they seem to think that they are entitled to great credit for not violating the constitution and charging more. The tax rate is low enough, but the assessment on small property owners is entirely too high. Of what benefit is a low rate when it is offset by a high assessment? Railroad and corporate property is assessed at only about twenty per cent of its value, while our small farmers and business men are assessed at fully fifty per cent. If it can be done, I am in favor of lowering the assessment of all property in Scott county on a level with corporate property. If it was done all over the State it would force our State Board

of Equalization to raise the assessment of corporate property or let the State treasury go busted. If Scott county will lead in this, I believe other counties will follow. In St. Louis schools are closing for want of funds. Over in Chicago the same condition confronts the people. The school boards gathered evidence and laid it before the Supreme court of Illinois, and that court mandated the State Board of Equalization and forced it to raise the assessment of corporate property in Chicago and Cook county \$180,000,000! The school boards of St. Louis undertook similar steps. It is claimed that in the city of St. Louis there is corporate property to the amount of \$250,000,000 that is escaping taxation. Judge Rombauer appeared before the Supreme court of Missouri last week and asked for a writ of mandamus compelling our State Board of Equalization to assess this property. The writ was denied, and the court refuses to give any reason for its action. Evidently the Supreme court of Missouri is more friendly to corporations than is the Supreme court of Illinois."

**HOMES FOR CHILDREN.**

Superintendent Fiedler Was in Benton Monday.

Last Monday a well-dressed gentleman approached the editor and handed over a leaflet on which was stamped "Rev. J. H. Fiedler, district superintendent Children's Home Society of Missouri, St. Louis, Mo." On the inside page was the picture of a little child, with outstretched arms, crying: "Help me to get a home."

After the editor had glanced over this leaflet, the Rev. Fiedler began: "We are a State institution and it is our business to find homes for destitute and neglected children. We depend upon contributions from the people to carry on this work, and if you see fit to help us, any contribution will be appreciated."

The picture of the little child, with outstretched arms, crying, "Help me to get a home!" impressed the editor deeply, and as he went down in his pocket after some coin he looked the Rev. Fiedler squarely in the face and said: "It is a shame that in this land of plenty innocent children should be dependent upon charity for homes. If these children had not been robbed of what was rightfully their own, they would not be dependent upon charity. If you ministers would preach the gospel of Christ instead of preaching to please your congregations, then these conditions would not exist."

The reverend gentleman seemed somewhat perplexed at this blunt statement and did not know whether to accept it as an insult or the maturerings of a crank. To relieve the situation the editor continued: "You are from St. Louis, are you not?"

"Yes, sir."

"Prince Henry is there today, isn't he?"

"Yes, sir."

"And they are spending \$50,000 to entertain him four hours?"

The reverend gentleman said nothing.

"And while these dunks, who have grown rich as the result of special privileges obtained through bribing the people's representatives, are spending fifty thousand dollars in entertaining a foreign snob, you are here begging dollars and dimes that the little ones may not starve?"

"Oh, we have got nothing to do with those fellows," retorted the Rev. Fiedler.

"But you OUGHT to have," insisted the editor. "It is the press and the pulpit that moulds public sentiment, and both cater to snobbery. If a minister should preach the true gospel he would not be permitted to occupy the pulpit of any fashionable church in the United States, and a newspaper that will publish the truth at all times has mighty little show for existence."

"There is a good deal of truth in what you say," admitted the Rev. Fiedler, and, as if anxious to change the subject, he continued: "Our institution is doing good work. We expect to take three children—the Cantrell children—from your poor farm and secure homes for them. I am here now negotiating with the county court to secure them."

As the editor walked away from the words of Mayor Jones, of Toledo, Ohio, who, in addressing the ladies of his city, said: "I can get any of you ladies a first-class baby, boy or girl, white, black or yellow, for the mere asking; but if you want a first-class pup it will cost you from \$5 to \$50. I am in favor of a civilization that will increase the price of babies and lower the price of pups."

**Scrap Iron Wanted.**

100,000 pounds of scrap iron wanted at once. Also worn out machinery, old brass, copper and rubber. J. M. Jones & Co., Benton, Mo.

## County Court Proceedings.

County court met in adjourned term Monday with Judges Reeder, Batts and Welch, Prosecuting Attorney Kelly, Sheriff Henderson and Clerk McPheters. The following proceedings were had:

Allowances: J. P. Ranney, \$25; V. Y. Lauck, \$75; Frank Blos, \$2; J. R. Joyce, \$20; C. F. McMullin, \$20; J. L. Tanner, \$25; J. A. Armstrong, \$180; L. Butler & Co., \$8.85; J. S. Watts, \$145.38; John McKeon, \$20; Ed Sparks, \$20; Robt. Davis, \$25; Central Bridge Co., \$465; A. J. Roshing, \$50; B. F. Marshall More, Co., \$5; D. H. Leedy, \$23.25; Scott County Burial Society, \$9.75; Johnstone Land Co., \$926.60; Sheriff Henderson, \$15; Wm. Reeder, \$10; W. R. Batts, \$11.30; C. N. Welch, \$11.50.

Ordered that road leading from Benton and Charleston road to Blodgett, via lands owned by R. F. Allen et al., as lately established, be put in traveling condition by county surveyor.

Thomas Duvall, Frank Shoulters, Robt. Reynolds, W. A. Miller, James Armstrong and Jas. Stone relieved of poll tax for 1901 on account of disability.

Election ordered for April, 1902, at the annual school election, to vote upon the question of adopting county supervision.

Frank Kelly appointed special commissioner to deed county's interest in lot 45, in Benton, to Phil. A. Hanner.

R. L. Harrison, collector, filed motion asking that his annual settlement be continued until April 10, 1902.

Resignation of Linton Jones, as constable of Richland township, accepted and J. S. Cobb appointed.

Road petition filed by W. H. Tanner (S. H. Hunter et al.), remonstrance continued to May term.

In the matter of St. L. S. W. Ry. vs. Chas. S. Stone, temporary writ of injunction granted.

Report of commissioners of road district 17 filed and approved.

\$200 of the capital school fund loaned to Mrs. Mollie Austin.

\$1000 loaned to Frank Westrich.

**They Talked It Over.**

During a brief recess, Tuesday, the members of the county court gathered upon a discussion of equal taxation in Scott county. They agreed that it was ridiculous to assume that the personal property of C. D. Matthews amounted to more than twice as much as the personal property of all the other citizens of Skiston and expressed a willingness to correct matters at the next meeting of the Board of Equalization. They contended, however, that the evidence brought before them was such that they were in duty bound to increase the assessments.

The equalization of real estate values was also discussed, and it now seems that a general overhauling will occur. Judge Welch seemed to think that to get at a correct valuation of the land would be a difficult task and remarked, "Why, I could not do that for my own township."

"But you could get the assistance of three or four reliable men from various parts of your township and get a pretty correct valuation, couldn't you?" interrupted the Kicker man.

"Oh, yes; I could take two men from our end, two men from the river bottom and one from the middle of the township and get it almost exactly."

Judges Reeder and Batts agreed that if this was done in every township it would be possible to get mighty close to a correct assessment, and it is not at all improbable that the next Board will adopt this method.

**From Morley.**

Married, at the residence of the bride's mother, Mrs. M. V. Harris, on Sunday evening, March 2, 1902, Leo Wellman and Miss Lena Harris, Rev. Reeves officiating. The bride was attired in a beautiful dress of satin cloth trimmed with cream Venice bands. After the ceremony, the invited guests, C. D. Harris and family, S. P. Marshall and family, V. Leslie Harris, C. Pearl Harris, and Misses Hettie Harris and Jessie Hughes, retired to the dining room where refreshments were served. Mr. and Mrs. Wellman drove to Crowder Monday, where they will make their home for the present.

A masque social was given at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Bryans Wednesday evening in honor of Miss Mae Bryans' 18th birthday. A pleasant affair.

Miss Ella Shanks, of Skiston, who has been visiting in Benton the past few days, was here Tuesday, enroute to her home.

Mrs. L. Daugherty and children, of Morehouse, visited homefolks the first of the week.

James P. Smith and wife visited at Bufordville Saturday.

**Administrator's Sale.**

I will set at public auction to the highest bidder, at Vanduser, Mo., on SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 1902, the following personal property belonging to the estate of H. C. Bryant, deceased: 2 horses, 8 head of cattle, 2 swine, one-half interest in a jack, and household and kitchen furniture.

TERMS OF SALE:—\$5.00 and under, cash; over \$5.00, a credit of six months will be given, purchaser giving note bearing 8 per cent interest with approved security. If promptly paid at maturity no interest will be charged. No property to be removed until terms of sale are complied with.

E. F. BRYANS, Administrator.

## ANNOUNCEMENT.

Having succeeded to the Ireland Mercantile business, I wish to announce to the public that I will continue the Cut Price Sale for a few weeks, as we do not want to carry over any heavy or out of season goods.

The business will be kept up to the standard of my predecessor, except that prices will be 'way down. We solicit your trade, the which we expect to hold by fair-dealing.

**Here Are a Few Prices:**

18 pounds Granulated Sugar for \$1.00  
Flannette marked 12 1/2¢ now 8 1/2¢ per yard  
Boots marked \$2.00 go at \$1.50  
Boots marked 1.75 go at 1.25  
Boys' Boots worth \$1.50 go at \$1.10  
Snag Proof Rubber Boots worth \$4.00 go at \$3.25  
Snag Proof Hip Boots (Rubber) worth \$5.50 go at \$5.00  
Men's Overcoats worth \$8.00 go at \$7.50  
Men's Overcoats worth \$7.00 go at \$6.50  
Men's Heavy Shoes worth \$1.25 go at \$1.00  
Men's Dress Shoes worth \$1.50 go at \$1.15  
Imported Saxony Wool was 10¢ a hank, now 5¢.

**Yours For Trade,**

**B. C. MOORE,**

Successor to  
A. N. IRELAND

**COMMERCE, MO.**

**From Oran.**

There has been a good deal of excitement here over snafus. There are now five cases in town and we farmers. Those affected are closely quarantined. It has had a killing effect on schools, business and religious gatherings—and there has been a general stampede to get vaccinated.

The Baptist meeting has closed temporarily on account of the snafu excitement and bad weather. It will resume again in the near future. There were three additions and much interest was manifested at the time the meeting closed.

There is to be a Sunday school rally, perhaps in April, conducted by Rev. Charles Rhodes, State Sunday school superintendent, of St. Louis, at the Baptist church, to which every body is invited.

Miss Clara Maddox was home for a few days from her school at Perkins visiting her parents. Her health is improving.

Rev. N. D. Maddox was called to the bedside of his father, who was thought to be dying, last Sunday.

Mr. Chitty, who is now one of the firm of Dinsberger & Chitty, will make his home here in future.

Mrs. Stables and children, of Blodgett, have been visiting the family of R. Watkins this week.

Rev. W. G. Reeves was in town a few hours Monday, enroute to his home at Farmington.

J. R. Hamilton is still very sick. He is suffering a relapse and recovery is doubtful.

The town board, at its last meeting, granted the right-of-way to the new railroad.

Born, to the wife of Alva Hayden, a fine son.

**From New Hamburg.**

While enjoying a glass of beer with one of our candidates the other day, an old farmer was heard to remark: "It is not always the man who treats the offestest that makes the best officer."

Candidates are getting thicker as the winter moderates. Joe Watkins, candidate for sheriff, and Riley Batts and Jos. Utzage, candidates for county judge, were here this week.

Joseph and Levi Bechel, of Blodgett, and Joe Miller and Joe Hoesinger, of Oran, spent the greater part of Wednesday here with friends.

Since the sled and snow disappeared our farmers are more cheerful. Wheat looks well and they hope for a good crop.

Louis Hahn went over to Benton Thursday to have the KICKER print some bills for his fine horse.

Mrs. Victoria Fornes, who has been quite sick for some time, is able to be up again.

A big boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Walters Wednesday. Simon Reiminger was over at Benton Wednesday.

Father Moening had business at Benton Monday.

**From Blodgett.**

Mrs. S. J. Harp, late of Fredericktown, has taken charge of the Commercial hotel. The former proprietor, A. M. Sanders, has retired from public life.

Julian P. Scott who has been at his home in St. Louis during the bad weather, returned Tuesday.

Robert L. Stubblefield, candidate for circuit clerk, was down to see the boys one day last week.

Elmer Burke has been dangerously ill of pneumonia but is some better at this writing.

W. C. McCloud and family have returned from a visit to St. Louis.

Miss Offie Griffin, of Morehouse, visited friends here Sunday.

Rev. Manly preached to a well filled house Sunday morning.

Robt. L. Buck went to Charleston on business last Friday.

Naz L. Ostner was here Tuesday.

**Warren C. Lambert.**

Warren C. Lambert announces his candidacy for the office of presiding judge of the county court, subject to the primary. Mr. Lambert is a practical man, a good farmer and is well and favorably known throughout the county. From 1894 to 1898 he served the people as county treasurer and gave entire satisfaction. He is a man of good judgment and competent to fill the position to which he aspires.

## 'ROUND-ABOUT.

Among those in attendance at county court, Monday, were: L. M. Jenkins, Dr. R. A. Sparks, and John Hufstetter, of Blodgett; J. C. Walker, of Olla; Lucius and Robt. Stone, of Commerce; Thomas Christman, John English and J. F. Watkins, of Twp. 34; Constable Oster and V. V. Lauck, Kelso; James W. Armstrong, Vanduser, and E. F. Bryans, Oran.

Constable Cobb, of Skiston, was here Monday and took with him Wm. Wyatt, charged with larceny. Wyatt pleaded guilty to petit larceny before Squire Harrison and was sentenced to ten days in the county jail, where he is now confined.

Owing to the very bad weather Collector Harrison and his deputies have been unable to get over the county sufficiently to serve notices on delinquent taxpayers and his settlement with the county court was postponed until April.

A woman marries a man in the hope of having a lover, and often discovers, after it is too late, that she merely has a boarder who is most difficult to please. At any rate, this seems to be the prevailing sentiment where the editor boards.

Will Reeder returned Sunday from St. Louis where he was called as a witness in a case against the Transit company. Will says soon as the lawyers found out he was from Scott county they wouldn't let him go on the witness stand.

Jas. K. P. Cheving, with the B. F. Marshall Mercantile Co., of Blodgett, was in Benton Monday. It is needless to say that he was here on business, for Mr. Cheving is always a very busy man.

Guy E. Cooksey, of the Merchandise Post, was in Benton Friday of last week. Guy says he believes in independent journalism, and his paper has been remarkably so—considering surroundings.

Theodore Bryant, of Vanduser, and E. F. Bryans, of Oran, had business in the probate court, the first of the week, concerning the estate of the late H. C. Bryant.

From all over the county come the same stories—that the farmers are pleased with the Kicker. That is all we care for. The "leading citizens" be blamed.

James P. Ranney, W. H. Stubblefield, Jr., and J. D. Kibbel, of Richwoods, were here attending to business in the county court Monday.

Ben Barnes started from Morehouse Tuesday as a passenger on the Peavine. He abandoned the train at Salsado and drove to Benton.

Walker & Son have placed a street lamp in front of their store, and the example should be followed by other merchants.

Louis (father) and Joe Watkins, the two candidates for sheriff, were in Benton "shaking hands" the first of the week.

Mrs. Josephine Rhodes, of Advance, Mo., was here visiting her sister, Mrs. Walter G. Rhoads, during the week.

Two boys were born to Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Risig Wednesday night. All doing well—nothing to report.

The Peavine missed up at Salsado, Tuesday, and we got no mail. The Peavine is a rare article.

Esch Hahn and Mr. Zilch, of East Prairie, were in the county this week waiting to buy mules.

The Marshall Mercantile company, of Blodgett, are advertising for one hundred thousand dollars.

X. Schwartz, of New Hamburg, was here Monday. He is afflicted with face-erysipelas.

James Paul and August Bohmhart, of Blodgett, were in Benton Wednesday.

Prof. High, of Commerce, painted a neat sign for Walker & Son.

W. H. Hoesinger is in St. Louis buying spring goods for the firm.

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Schoon, of New Hamburg, were in Benton Monday.

Peter Schoon, the New Hamburg merchant, was in Benton Tuesday.

Dr. Butler returned Sunday from a trip to central Missouri, accompanied by Mrs. Butler.

Prof. Stearns Sundayed with home folks in Crowder county.

C. A. Leedy visited Cape Girardeau Tuesday.

**A Genuine Producer.**

H. P. Proctor, of the Watkins farm near Morley, called at the KICKER office Tuesday, and, when asked why he left the Blodgett country, said: "Oh, I just got tired raising water-melons and h—l, and have gone to raising wheat, stock and boys."

"How many boys have you?" "Six—and each boy has four sisters."

"How's that?" "Each boy has four sisters."

Mr. Proctor noticed that he had the editor puzzled and continued: "I have four girls, and these four girls are sisters to each of the boys."

**Mother And Children Gone.**

Mrs. Ellen Cantrell and her three children were county charges at the poor farm. Supt. Fiedler, of the Children's Home Society, made up application to the county court for the children.

The court granted the request and ordered Sheriff Henderson to get the children. When the sheriff went to the poor farm to execute the order, last Tuesday, he found that the mother and her three children had left the night before. They were last seen at Blodgett on their way to Kentucky.

**Mississippi County Vote.**

Yesterday the official vote of Mississippi county was received at the Kicker office and shows—Russell, 1,129; Vanduser, 6; Lee was nominated for representative; Geo. Ashby, collector; W. C. Russell, probate judge; J. A. Bird, presiding judge of the county court.